

serious, and I am prepared to stay here until we are done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SHADEGG] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SHADEGG addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

STOP THE REVOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. WATERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, and Members, we just heard from the minority leader that the negotiations have broken down, that the talks, rather, that were going on to try and get this Government going have broken down. I was hopeful, but I guess I am not surprised. I am not surprised because I have kept up and watched very carefully what has been going on, and I suppose, as I thought about this, I was reminded that Speaker NEWT GINGRICH said he is a revolutionary and this is a revolution, and I suppose Speaker GINGRICH is leading a revolution, and in order to do that you must disrupt, you must block, you must impede, you must deny, you must do whatever is necessary—I guess by any means necessary—you must even take extreme means to keep anything from happening. I guess that is what revolution is all about.

It is unfortunate that the Speaker has decided to lead this revolution against the American people. Government, for all intents and purposes, has stopped. It is closed down. We cannot get a continuing resolution because the revolutionary has stopped everything.

Now I was led to believe that there were some agreements. Now, if you will recall, we got a continuing resolution that carried us up until December 15. How did they get that? They got that because there were some agreements. They got together, and the revolutionary said, "Mr. President, if you will agree to a 7-year balanced budget and CBO numbers, then we can talk," and the President, in order to get a continuing resolution so that we could keep going, we could keep Government open and get on with the negotiations, essentially agreed to that. So that is off the table, that is already agreed to, a 7-year balanced budget and CBO numbers.

So what is stopping the negotiations?

The revolutionary GINGRICH also agreed that he would recognize and respect our priorities. The President said to him, "I cannot allow you to dismantle Medicare, I cannot allow you to gut Medicaid, I cannot allow you to do away with education in this country, and we must, we must, protect the environment."

And the revolutionary, NEWT GINGRICH, said, "All right, we will respect that."

So, Mr. Speaker, they came together and agreed on those basic principles in order to get to the negotiation table.

Now revolutionary NEWT GINGRICH is saying, "Unless you agree to gut Medicare and Medicaid, I don't want to play, I don't want to negotiate," and so we are past December 15 now, the Government is closed down, we cannot get a continuing resolution, and the revolutionary will not go back to the negotiating table.

That is where we are, my colleagues. That is what it is all about. I am convinced that this really is a revolution; I just did not think it would be so extreme. I never dreamed, not in my wildest imagination did I dream, that revolutionary NEWT GINGRICH would be willing to stop this country dead in its tracks in order to prove that he is a revolutionary.

So I suppose, when the veterans do not get their paychecks, when people cannot use their public parks, I suppose when people cannot get passports, when all of this is taking place, that revolutionary NEWT GINGRICH is willing to sit here and say, "That's all right, I want my way."

We have seen some of the actions of the revolutionary in the past, and we know that the revolutionary gets very upset when he does not have his way. If you can recall what happened just a few weeks ago when there was a plane that went to a most important funeral in Israel, and the revolutionary could not have his way, he came back, he pouted, he made statements, he went on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the revolutionary will stop this revolution on the people and allow Government to work.

BALANCING THE BUDGET IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. TORKILDSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chance to talk a little bit. I want to applaud my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY], who was here a few minutes ago when he talked about Aaron Feuerstein who runs and owns the Malden Mills in Methuen, the factory that very tragically burnt down and literally hundreds of people, thousands of people were left without a job. Several people lost their lives in that fire, and Mr. Feuerstein very generously, first, committed to rebuild the factory in Massachusetts; second, the next day told employees that they would be paid for at least 30 days and also that their health insurance would be continued for at least 90 days, and in the holiday season everyone in Massachusetts appreciated that. Even though the factory is not in my district, many of my constituents work in the that factory because it neighbors the Sixth District of Massachusetts, and I just

wanted to, first, applaud Mr. Feuerstein for what he has done. I have not met him personally, but I have called to congratulate him and offer assistance, and I think it is something that all of us nationally do across the country. Any time there is a tragedy like that, we all pull together.

I would disagree with my colleague from Massachusetts though in just what enables a very generous employer to do what was done in this particular case. In the case of the United States we have had a deficit in this country now for 26 consecutive years. If any company had run a deficit for 26 consecutive years, they could not have offered employees pay for 30 days, they probably would not even be in business. And so the situation for the United States of America is something that we have to address because instead of a one-time immediate calamity, the calamity for the United States has been a long time in coming and will not be resolved overnight.

I give people the analogy of the situation with the debt in the United States and why it is so important to balance the budget. I compare it to someone's personal finances. Imagine that you had four credit cards and you had charged the maximum amount you could on each of those four credit cards. Well, if you wanted to go and make payments, you would hope to pay down the balance, but if you, instead of doing that, you went out and applied for a fifth credit card so you could start paying the other four credit cards, it would not take someone long to figure out that indeed it would be a very quick amount of time before that fifth card was also run up and, indeed, the debt would be much, much worse.

That is very close to the situation where the United States is right now. It has borrowed and borrowed and borrowed. Now the debt is officially just below \$5 trillion, but if you add all the money that has been promised to Social Security recipients and others, the debt is even larger than that, and at some point there will not be enough money to make all those commitments which have been made, those things which are called mandatory spending, and that is why it is so important that now we take steps necessary to have a balanced budget. I am someone who believes that we could not do it in 1 year; I mean even that would be too drastic, and that is why a 7-year plan is very reasonable. If we can do it in 5, all the better, but a 7-year plan certainly would be very, very positive.

Now we are in a situation now where we are debating the 7-year balanced budget, and not too long ago we thought we had an agreement between the White House and Congress that we would use Congressional Budget Office numbers, that we would protect certain things like Medicare, education, the environment, provide for an adequate defense, provide for fair tax policy for working families, and even though we